

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00445 080306Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SCA-01 SCS-03

OPR-02 IO-13 PC-01 AID-05 FBO-02 MMO-01 PER-01

A-01 EUR-12 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 DHA-02

/110 W

-----096261 080321Z /72-61

O 072230Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0120

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR GT BH UK

SUBJECT: BELIZE DISPUTE VIEWED FROM BELIZE; SITREP ONE

1. IN ORDER ESTABLISH A CHRONOLOGY AS WELL AS A CATCH-ALL REPORTING FORMAT FOR EVENTS OCCURRING HERE, I AM BEGINNING A SERIES OF NUMBERED SITUATION REPORTS OF WHICH THIS IS THE FIRST.

2. ARRIVAL OF REINFORCEMENTS. AIRBORNE REINFORCEMENT OF BRITISH FORCES BELIZE IS PROCEEDING AND AS OF 1445 OUR OBSERVER AT BELIZE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HAD COUNTED SEVEN C-130'S, TWO VC-10'S AND FOUR HARRIERS. LATTER HAD FUEL PROBES IN PLACE, SUGGESTING THEY HAD BEEN REFUELED IN FLIGHT. THEY ARE ALREADY BUSILY BUZZING THE COUNTRYSIDE.

3. OFFICIAL BRITISH STATEMENT. AT 1500 GOVERNOR MCENTEE TELE-  
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PHONED TO CONFIRM REINFORCEMENT. SHORTLY AFTERWARD RADIO BELIZE CARRIED FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:

"THE FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT GIVEN BY BELIZE HOUSE AND THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER IN BELMOPAN:

"IN FACE OF THE THREATENING PUBLIC PRESS STATEMENTS AND MILITARY

MOVES IN GUATEMALA OVER RECENT WEEKS, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO RE-INFORCE THE BELIZE GARRISON. THE BARRIERS ARE BACK SO YOU WILL SEE THEM FLYING AROUND. A FRIGATE IS IN BELIZE WATERS AGAIN AND MORE SOLDIERS ARE BEING FLOWN IN.

"BUT THE BELIZE AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS WANT TO MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THESE ARE PURELY DEFENSIVE MEASURES AND DO NOT MEAN THAT THEY ARE ANY LESS DETERMINED TO SEEK A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE DIFFICULTIES WITH GUATEMALA, ACCEPTABLE TO ALL CONCERNED IN THE DISPUTE.

"WE ARE AWARE OF THE RUMOURS CIRCULATING AND THE DISQUIET THAT THEY ARE CAUSING THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE. HOWEVER, YOU CAN REST ASSURED OF OUR PREPAREDNESS AND THAT THE BRITISH AND BELIZE FORCES ARE QUITE CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH ANY SITUATION THAT MAY ARISE. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE TAKE NOTE ONLY OF THE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS WHICH AS THE OCCASION DEMANDS WILL BE BROADCAST OVER RADIO BELIZE."

4. MOOD OF POPULACE. A STATE OF PUBLIC ALARM IS REPORTED EXISTING IN TOWN OF SAN IGNACIO NEAR GUATEMALAN BORDER, AND MANY OF THE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE LEAVING. WE WERE TOLD BY ONE SOURCE THAT A SIZABLE NUMBER OF BELIZEANS HAD CONGREGATED AROUND THE MEXICAN BORDER STATION HAVING BEEN DENIED ENTRY FOR WANT OF DOCUMENTATION.

5. WHAT IS MEXICO DOING? SAME SOURCE (RELIABILITY UNDETERMINED) SAID MEXICAN TROOPS IN YUCATAN ARE BEING READIED FOR POSSIBLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVOLVEMENT IN BELIZE.

1. GUIDANCE TO AMCITS. WE HAVE BEEN ON THE PHONE TO PREVIOUSLY AND NEWLY DESIGNATED E&E WARDENS IN TOWNS IN TOLEDO AND NEAR GUATEMALAN BORDER, ASKING THEM TO URGE AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS TO REMAIN CALM BUT ALERT. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE WE ARE GIVING WARDENS AND OTHER ENQUIRERS:

"WE ARE AWARE THAT TENSION BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND THE UK APPEARS TO BE INCREASING. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY GUATEMALAN MILITARY ACTION AGAINST BELIZE, WE ARE SUGGESTING THAT AMERICANS WHO HAVE NO NEED TO BE IN THE VICINITY OF THE GUATEMALAN BORDER STAY AWAY. WE ARE NOT ADVISING AMERICANS LIVING NEAR THE BORDER TO LEAVE THE AREA, BUT WE BELIEVE THEY SHOULD REMAIN ALERT TO ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS. IF THE CONSULATE GENERAL DECIDES TO NOTIFY AMERICAN CITIZENS OF ANY CHANGE IN THE SITUATION WE WOULD DO SO VIA RADIO BELIZE."

7. THOUGHTS ON EVACUATION. IN THE EVENT OF GUATEMALAN MILITARY ACTION WHICH MIGHT ENDANGER AMERICAN CITIZENS (OF WHOM WE ESTIMATE THERE ARE ABOUT A THOUSAND IN COUNTRY) WE PLAN TO SUGGEST THAT THOSE THUS ENDANGERED LEAVE AFFECTED AREAS BY AUTOMOBILE, PRE-

FERABLY PROCEEDING ON INTO MEXICO VIA NORTHERN HIGHWAY. HOWEVER,  
POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE RULED OUT THAT SOME SORT OF AIRLIFT OR SEA-  
LIFT ASSISTANCE FOR AMCITS MIGHT BE NECESSARY. VARIOUS CONTIN-  
GENCIES FULLY DISCUSSED IN OUR E&E PLAN WHICH IS UP TO DATE.  
GAWF

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTES, INDEPENDENCE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MOBILIZATION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS  
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